

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR BLOOD LEAD LEVELS IN CHILDREN AND ADULTS

The following categories represent general guidelines. Primary management of lead poisoning is source identification and removal from exposure. **Recommendations for medical treatment of children and adults differ significantly.** Treatment decisions should be made in consultation with a physician knowledgeable about lead poisoning medical management.

Blood Lead Levels (BLLs) in Children	
Blood Lead ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) ¹	Management ²
<10	Anticipatory guidance.
10-14	Guidance, nutrition and environmental evaluation, retest in 3 months.
15-19	As for 10-14 and retest in 1-2 months and consider hgb/hct. Treat persistent 15-19 BLLs as for 20-44.
20-44	As for 15-19 and refer to public health, ³ retest in 1 week-1 month, do hgb/hct.
45-69	As for 20-44 and consider chelation, retest in 24-48 hours.
≥ 70	Medical emergency. Immediately hospitalize, retest, and chelate.

¹ Screening may be on capillary specimens. Confirmatory and follow-up BLLs should be on venous draws.
² See Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), *Managing Elevated Blood Lead Levels Among Young Children*. Atlanta, GA: US Dept. of Health and Human Services, March 2002.
³ Contact the local childhood lead poisoning prevention program or the Health Officer, California Department of Health Services, [Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch](#), 510/622-5000.

Blood Lead Levels in Adults	
Blood Lead ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$)	Management
<10	No action needed
10-24	Identify and minimize lead exposure Remove from exposure if pregnant
25-49	Remove from exposure if symptomatic Monitor blood lead and zinc protoporphyrin Medical evaluation required by OSHA if BLL $\geq 40 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$
50-79	Remove from work with lead. Immediate medical evaluation indicated. Chelation not indicated unless significant symptoms due to lead poisoning.
≥ 80	As above. Chelation may be indicated if symptomatic. Important to consult on individual case basis (see below).

Consult Cal/OSHA [General Industry](#) and [Construction Lead Standards](#) for occupational exposure. For more information, call the California Department of Health Services, [Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program](#) at 510/622-4332, or your nearest University of California Occupational and Environmental Health Clinic (San Diego, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento). *Revised 10/02*

California Department of Health Services' Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch & Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program